

CHILD FATALITY REVIEW REPORT APACHE AND NAVAJO COUNTIES

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN WHO DIED IN 2005

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either Apache or Navajo Counties at the time of their deaths. During 2005, there were a combined total of 56 fatalities among children birth through 17 years of age in the counties of Apache (20 deaths) and Navajo (36 deaths). Males were disproportionately represented among child deaths with 61 percent of the deaths overall. The increased risk for boys was even more pronounced in infants (birth through one year) with boys accounting for 68 percent of the deaths, and in the 15 through 17 year age group with boys accounting for 82 percent of the deaths. Figure 1 shows the number of boys and girls who died in each age group.

**Figure 1. Age Group and Gender for all Deaths
Birth through 17 Years, Apache & Navajo Counties, 2005**

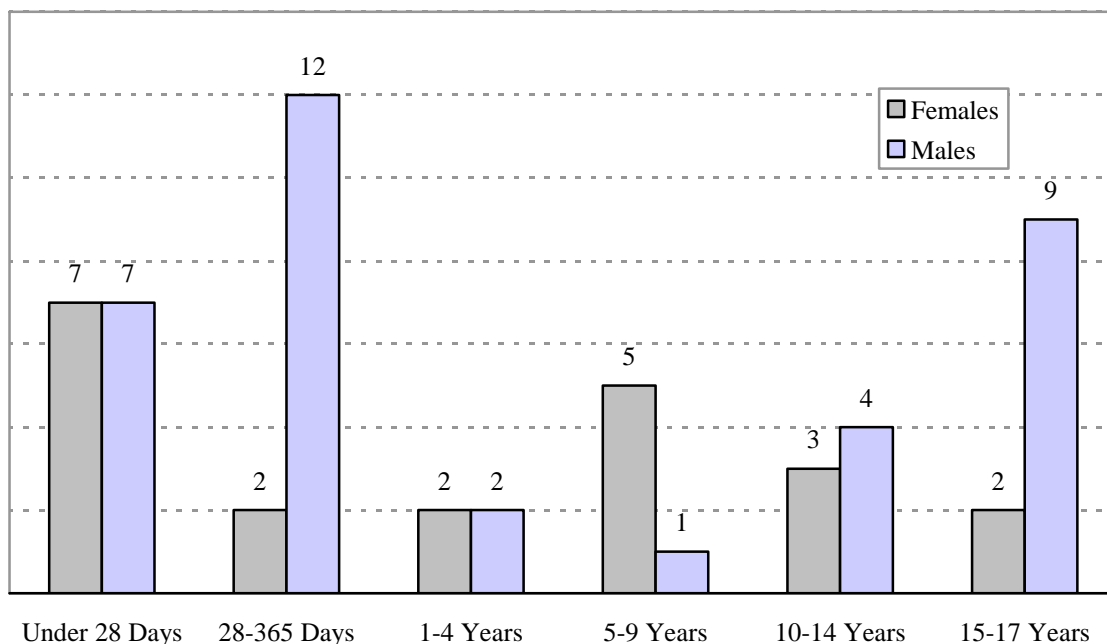
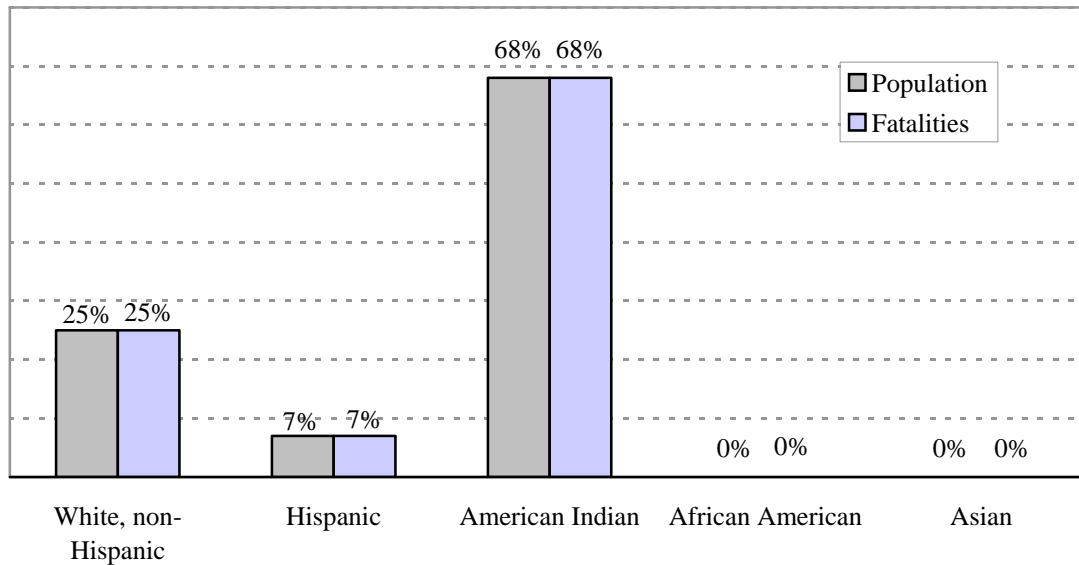


Figure 2 shows the racial and ethnic composition of the children who resided in Apache and Navajo Counties compared to fatalities of children who resided in Apache and Navajo Counties during 2005. The racial and ethnic composition of the children who died mirrored the population in Apache and Navajo Counties.

**Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of Population Birth through 17 Years
Compared to Fatalities, Apache & Navajo Counties, 2005**



CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Cause of death refers to the injury or disease resulting in the death (e.g. motor vehicle crash, pneumonia). Manner of death explains how the death came about. Manners of death are categorized as natural, accident, homicide, suicide, or undetermined. In addition to reviewing medical examiner reports, Child Fatality Review Teams review records from hospitals, emergency departments, law enforcement agencies, Child Protective Services, and other sources. As a result of this comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach, the team's determination of cause and manner sometimes differs from those recorded on the death certificate.

Natural deaths (e.g. medical conditions, congenital anomalies, prematurity) accounted for 50 percent (n=28) of all fatalities of children who resided in Apache and Navajo Counties. Overall, 32 percent of childhood deaths were due to an accident and 61 percent (n=11) of accidental deaths were due to motor vehicle crashes. Table 1 shows a cross-tabulation of the cause and manner of death for children who resided in Apache and Navajo Counties in 2005.

Table 1. Cause And Manner of Death, Birth through 17 Years, Apache and Navajo Counties, 2005						
<u>Cause</u>	<u>Accident</u>	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>Natural</u>	<u>Suicide</u>	<u>Undetermined</u>	<u>Total</u>
Medical*			21			21
MVC	11					11
Prematurity			6			6
Suffocation	4				1	5
Hanging				3		3
Blunt Force Trauma		1			1	2
Drowning	1				1	2
Firearm Injury	1					1
Poisoning					1	1
Shaken Infant		1				1
Unknown					1	1
SIDS			1			1
Exposure	1					1
Total	18	2	28	3	5	56
Percent of Manner	32%	4%	50%	5%	9%	100%
*Excluding SIDS and prematurity						

PREVENTABILITY

During reviews, teams examine the circumstances surrounding the death and identify factors that may have contributed to the death. Part of this review includes a 34-item checklist of contributing factors. After reviewing the contributing factors, the team determines whether the death was preventable.

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if an individual or the community could reasonably have done something that would have changed the circumstances that led to the child's death. Local Child Fatality Review Teams determined that 26 (46 percent) of the deaths of children who resided in Apache and Navajo Counties were preventable in 2005.

Existence of a contributing factor did not necessarily result in the determination that a death was preventable. Fifty-nine percent of all deaths (n=33) had at least one contributing factor noted. Table 2 shows the top contributing factors for the deaths of resident children of Apache and Navajo Counties in 2005, and the number of deaths that had the contributing factor noted.

Table 2. Top Contributing Factors to Child Fatalities, Birth through 17 Years, Apache and Navajo Counties, 2005	
<u>Factor</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lack of Supervision	10
Drugs / Alcohol	9
Lack of Vehicle Restraints	7

APACHE AND NAVAJO COUNTY CHILD FATALITIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section will compare the deaths of children who resided in Apache or Navajo Counties to the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. In 2005, 56 children who were residents of Apache or Navajo Counties died, and 1,017 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Child Fatality Review Teams found that Apache and Navajo Counties had a larger percentage of preventable deaths than the remaining counties. Overall, 46 percent of Apache and Navajo County deaths were preventable (n=26), compared to 32 percent of deaths in the remaining counties (n=325).

Table 3 provides a comparison of the top causes of death for Apache and Navajo Counties compared to the rest of Arizona. Medical causes of death were the leading causes for Apache and Navajo Counties as well as for the remainder of Arizona, accounting for approximately 40 percent of childhood deaths.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Death, Birth through 17 Years, Apache and Navajo Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005			
<u>Apache & Navajo Counties (n=56)</u>		<u>Arizona, excluding Apache & Navajo Counties (n=1,017)</u>	
<u>Cause</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Medical*	38%	Medical*	39%
MVC	20%	Prematurity	27%
Prematurity	11%	MVC	10%
*Excluding SIDS and prematurity			

Table 4 compares the manner of childhood deaths for residents of Apache and Navajo Counties to childhood deaths for residents of the rest of Arizona. The leading manner of death was natural, accounting for over half of childhood deaths for Apache and Navajo Counties (50 percent) and the remaining Arizona counties (70 percent), followed by accidental deaths. This comparison reveals that a larger percentage of childhood deaths were due to accidents, suicides, homicides and undetermined manner for Apache and Navajo Counties than for the remainder of Arizona.

Table 4. Manner of Death, Birth through 17 Years, Apache and Navajo Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005			
<u>Apache & Navajo Counties (n=56)</u>		<u>Arizona, excluding Apache & Navajo Counties (n=1,017)</u>	
<u>Manner</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Manner</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Natural	50%	Natural	70%
Accident	32%	Accident	19%
Undetermined	9%	Homicide	5%
Suicide	5%	Suicide	3%
Homicide	4%	Undetermined	3%

Figure 3 compares the age distribution of childhood deaths who were residents of Apache and Navajo Counties to residents of the other Arizona counties. Apache and Navajo Counties had a lower proportion of deaths of children less than 28 days old and one through four years old, but a higher proportion of deaths occurring in all other age groups.

Figure 3. Percent of Fatalities by Age Group, Birth through 17 Years, Apache & Navajo Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005

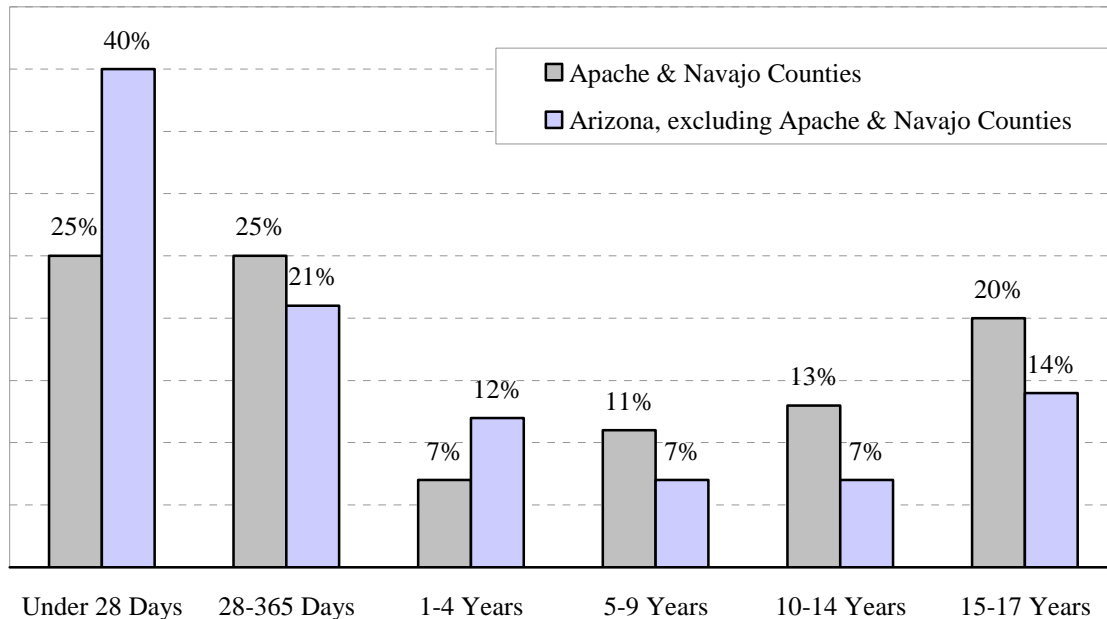


Figure 4 shows a comparison of childhood deaths by gender for residents of Apache and Navajo Counties with residents of the other counties in Arizona. Apache and Navajo Counties had a higher percentage of male deaths than the remainder of Arizona.

Figure 4. Percent of Fatalities by Gender, Birth through 17 Years, Apache & Navajo Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005

